



Klim says Aquatic Centre is 'perfect'

BRAD CROUCH

SOUTH Australia returned to international swimming in superb style with the official opening yesterday of the new State Aquatic Centre at Marion.

Olympic swimmer Michael Klim and diver Robert Newbery were among the first to sample the pools and declared them among the best in the world.

Klim described the centre as "the perfect facility" after a few laps. "This is just superb, it feels very fast and the water is so crisp and clear," he said.

Premier Mike Rann said the centre would be a drawcard. "FINA, the world swimming accreditation body, is about to change its rules for world class competition and there will only be

about six pools in the world that will qualify – that means we are up there with the London Olympic pool, the Beijing pool and some other great pools," Mr Rann said.

"We have missed out on big competitions because we didn't have a world-class pool. Well, now we have got it, as well as world-class learn-to-swim and toddler pools, community access pools, fantastic gym facilities, two magnificent water slides and so on."

The complex has a 50m competition swimming pool and a 55m diving and water polo pool alongside 1000sq m of leisure and recreational water.

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Making a splash: Michael Klim at the opening of the State Aquatic Centre yesterday. **Picture:** Michael Marschall